

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to have the status and content indicated in the following listing of claims, wherein any cancellation of claims is made *without prejudice*.

1. (previously presented) Composition suitable as a substitute for plasma comprising a solution of saline in a physiologically acceptable concentration and a protein having a colloid osmotic function wherein the protein having a colloid osmotic function is a recombinant gelatin-like protein with a molecular weight of from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons, has an isoelectric point of less than 8 and is not crosslinked by chemical modification.
2. (previously presented) Composition suitable as a substitute for plasma comprising a solution of saline in a physiologically acceptable concentration and a protein having a colloid osmotic function wherein the protein having a colloid osmotic function is a dimer or a trimer or a tetramer of a recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer, the protein monomer having a molecular weight of from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons and has an isoelectric point of less than 8 and wherein said monomer, dimer, trimer or tetramer is not crosslinked by chemical modification.
3. (currently amended) Composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.
4. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.
5. (currently amended) Composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has, at pH 8, a number of negatively charged amino acid residues

and a number of positively charged amino acid residues such that the number of negatively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein, minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, preferably at least 3.

6. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 1 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein is a human gelatin-like protein.

7. (currently amended) Composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein with an isoelectric point of less than 8 is obtained by replacement of glutamine by glutamic acid and/or replacement of asparagine by aspartic acid in an amino acid sequence from a natural collagen protein.

8. (original) Composition according to claim 1 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4.

9. (previously presented) A process for providing a plasma expander comprising utilizing a recombinant gelatin-like protein with a molecular weight of from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons, said recombinant gelatin-like protein having an isoelectric point of less than 8 wherein said protein is not crosslinked by chemical modification.

10. (currently amended) A process for providing a plasma expander comprising utilizing a dimer or a trimer or a tetramer of a recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer, the protein monomer having with a molecular weight from at least 10,000 Daltons to at most 50,000 Daltons, said recombinant gelatin-like protein having an isoelectric point of less than 8 and wherein said protein is not crosslinked by chemical modification.

11. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.
12. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.
13. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9 wherein the number of negatively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, optionally at least 3.
14. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein is a human gelatin-like protein.
15. (currently amended) The process according to claim 9 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or of SEQ ID NO: 2 or of SEQ ID NO: 3 or of SEQ ID NO: 4.
16. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 1 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 3.
17. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 2 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 3.

18. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.
19. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.
20. (currently amended) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the number of negatively charged aminoacid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein, minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, ~~preferably at least 3~~.
21. (currently amended) Composition according to claim 2 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer is a human gelatin-like protein.
22. (currently amended) Composition according to claim 2 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer with an isoelectric point of less than 8 is obtained by replacement of glutamine by glutamic acid and/or replacement of asparagine by aspartic acid in an amino acid sequence from a natural collagen protein.
23. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 2 wherein said recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4.
24. (currently amended) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer has a molecular weight of from at least 15,000 Daltons to at most 25,000 Daltons.

25. (previously presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has an isoelectric point of from at least 4 to at most 7.
26. (previously presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein the number of negatively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein minus the number of positively charged amino acid residues at pH 8 in the recombinant gelatin-like protein is at least 2, optionally at least 3.
27. (currently amended) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer is a human gelatin-like protein.
28. (currently amended) The process according to claim 10 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or of SEQ ID NO: 2 or of SEQ ID NO: 3 or of SEQ ID NO: 4.
- 29-30. (cancelled).
31. (new) The composition according to claim 1 wherein the recombinant gelatin-like protein has one or more features selected from the group consisting of: at least 5% of the total number of amino acids is a proline residue; 3-dimensional globular domains are absent; at least 10% of the total number of amino acids is a proline residue; at least 15% of the total number of amino acids is a proline residue; 5% of the total number of amino acids is a proline residue and the proline residues are evenly distributed; having sequences comprising proline residues which do not give rise to globular domains as determined by computer modeling; and a sequence comprising stretches of more than 20 amino acids without a proline residue.

32. (new) The process according to claim 10 comprising also employing recombinant gelatin-like protein monomer in a proportion to select a duration of the plasma expansion effect.